

Flash Eurobarometer 557

Businesses' attitudes towards corruption in the EU

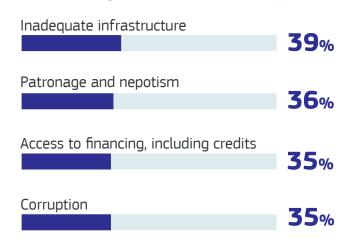


Problems encountered when doing business

Although not ranked among the top concerns, corruption is a problem for more than a third of European companies (-2 percentage points compared to 2024)

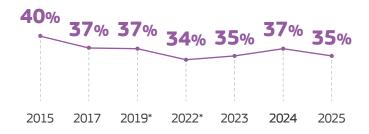
Ranking of problems for European companies when doing business in their country

Complexity of administrative procedures	CC
	66 %
Fast-changing legislation and policies	
	64 %
Tax rates	
Tax Tates	63 %
Restrictive labour regulations	46
	46%
Lack of means or procedures to recover debt from others	
	42 %





% considering corruption to be a problem when doing business



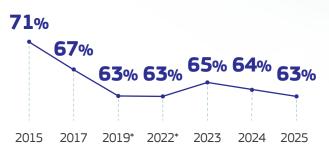
^{*} fieldwork conducted during COVID-19 pandemic

Perceived level of corruption

A majority of companies think corruption is widespread in their country (-1 percentage point compared to 2024)



% agreeing corruption is widespread



^{*} fieldwork conducted during COVID-19 pandemic

Opinions on gifts and bribes

Even small gifts are considered a bribe by European companies





Opinions on most widespread corruptive practices

Top three perceived most widespread corruptive practices

Favouring friends and/or family members in business

47%

Favouring friends and/or family members in public institutions

46%

Funding political parties in exchange for public contracts or influence over policy making

34%

(Companies were asked to select up to thee types of corruption fom a list of seven.)

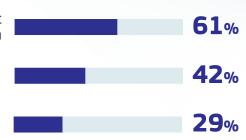
Whistleblowing

Share of European companies agreeing that....

Workers reporting instances of corruption to the competent authorities contribute to effectively addressing corruption

Confidential reporting channels, which can receive company internal reports of workers on corruption, are effective in allowing companies to detect and address instances of corruption

Workers reporting instances of corruption are effectively protected against retaliation



Opinions on how corruption is tackled

A majority of companies disagree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior

motives in their country

% of companies considering it likely that in their country companies engaging in corrupt practices would...

